

**To the European Parliament  
To the European Commission  
To the Council of Europe  
To the Czech Government, President of the European Union**

## **STATEMENT ON THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN MOLDOVA**

The rigged election process in Moldova caused people's protests to be launched in Moldova on the second day after elections. Dozens of thousands of citizens showed their bewilderment and discontent with the quality of the election process, and results, which are perceived as unfair, mocked and manipulative. Unfortunately, the peaceful protests generated also violent riots, which have been exploited by the ruling Communists to discredit the absolute majority of the protesters who were peaceful, and further restrain constitutional rights in this country.

Inaction of police and outraging arrogance of the ruling elite inflamed the public, which continued during 7-8 and 9 of April several actions of unrest and discontent, deriving primarily from the overall perception that the elections were derailed from democratic standards.

Instead of addressing the protester's requests, however, the regime appealed to disproportional and indiscriminate arrests and beatings of protesters, harassment of the opposition, banning private media, internet resources, crushing upon public meetings, and leaders of the opposition, thus, degenerating the initial legitimate protests into a large political crisis, which may have extremely negative consequences for the constitutional regime in Moldova.

As a neighboring country to EU, and one that reclaimed special statute to adhere to the EU community, Moldova deserves more attention, care and support these days from the democratic nations. Indifference to the painful democratic process in Moldova could be interpreted by those who want to restore the Soviet regime in this country as a ticket to further infringements upon the main civil rights and freedoms. We call for an immediate and responsible management of the political crisis.

The primary cause of public unrest and protest were unfair elections. Independent reports showed that elections did not match election standards, which are impossible to follow when the main media groups are controlled by the ruling power, while election regulations provide obvious advantages to some parties, ban elections blocks and increased the election threshold to inadmissible rates. The police was heavily involved in the electoral campaign harassing opposition parties, journalists and civil society activists.

Through its reports, civil society has contested the quality of elections standards for general elections 2009 in Moldova, blaming that authorities have rigged elections, intimidated opposition parties and voters, restrained election rights of those Moldovan citizens working abroad, and fundamentally limited the freedom of press. Pretending that nothing is happening today in Moldova will be dangerously incorrect and wrong.

To stop the violence and overturn of fundamental rights and freedoms in Moldova, we urge democratic leaders of the European Union to contribute to the reinstallation of democratic institutions and norms in Moldova,

- To deescalate the peril of sliding to an even more authoritarian rule under President Voronin mandate, we request that EU diplomats mediate the emerging political crisis in Moldova, requesting immediate liberation of arrested protestors, and further restraint of the authorities from exploiting the effects of the violent riots in political interests.
- An independent, EU-monitored investigation into the sources of violence. We ask for the establishment of a special international group, mandated by the EU, with special envoys from the European Presidency to investigate the causes, actors and the escalation of riots, which have degenerated into violent actions, assisting independent judiciary trials for those who committed these actions.
- To restore constitutional and international norms in Moldova, we urge the political leadership of the country to stop immediately the hate-speech discourse and anti-democratic, anti-western hysteria, which aims these days to exploit to the utmost the effects of these protests, and crush the opposition and civil society.

- To assist Moldova to find out the exit from the heavy post-election political crisis, we urge European Union to facilitate the creation of a special round-table with participation of all political parties of this country, to restore trust and dialogue between the main political actors.
- To enshrine democratic standards of behavior, in particular from the outset ensuring a free access of political parties and civil society leaders to the public mass media, thus, creating necessary preconditions to decide upon future organization of free and fair elections in Moldova.

As the European Union tries to launch the Eastern Partnership, the initiative could be severely undermined if the summit EU summit with its Eastern neighbours will unexpectedly have a newly consolidated autocrat attending.

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